

REMARKS

Claim 1 is currently amended. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments contained herein are fully supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed and do not contain new matter. Claim 5 is currently canceled.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki (U.S. Patent No. 6,121,664) in view of Chang (U.S. Patent No. 5,687,118). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1, as currently amended, includes the recitation of claim 5 and is thus the equivalent of claim 5 written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (none). Claim 5 written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is indicated as being allowable. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2-4 and 8 depend from claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has not amended claims 5-7.

Claim 5 is canceled, mooted the objection thereto. Claims 6-7 depend from claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Applicant acknowledges that claims 9-28 and 42-62 are allowed.

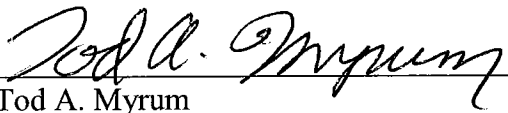
CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any further fees deemed necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501373.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2208.

Respectfully submitted,

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